

seen. One specimen of *Danaus plexippus* was seen near Moro Jable but I could not find any signs of larvae on plants of *Calotropis procera*, a giant introduced milkweed which grows in the river gullies. *Zizeeria knysna* (Trimen) was locally common at several sites along the coast near Moro Jable wherever there was any damp ground. The butterflies were associated with the little pink-flowered annual trefoil *Lotus glinoides*.

On the 30 March I was investigating some *Acacia* trees on the edge of the salt marsh near the lighthouse to see if there might be any sign of *Azanus ubaldus* (Stoll) which occurs further west on Gran Canaria when I saw and caught two female specimens of *Leptotes pirithous* (L.). This is a new record of this butterfly not only for Fuerteventura but for the whole of the Canary Islands. However, this is perhaps not very surprising as Fuerteventura is only about 100 kms from African coast at Cape Juby and specimens could be blown across in the frequent winds.

Of the more obvious moths *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L.) was occasional at the *Bongainvillia* in the gardens and *Syngrapha circumflexa* (L.) at the lamps on the balcony of my hotel room.— DAVID HALL, The Cathedral School, The Palace, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7LH.

### Records of some less common Anthomyiidae (Diptera) from Kent

The Anthomyiidae is possibly the least well-studied family within the calypterate diptera and hence general records within the literature are sparse. During the period 1982 to 1997 I accumulated some 1400 records for 100 species from Kent with more than 50% of the records pertaining to the following ten species: *Adia cinerella* (Fallén), *Anthomyia liturata* (R.-D.), *Anthomyia procellaris* Rondani, *Botanophila fugax* (Meigen), *Delia florilega* (Zetterstedt), *Delia platura* (Meigen), *Hylemya vagans* (Panzer), *Hylemya variata* (Fallén), *Pegoplata infirma* (Meigen) and *Paregle audacula* (Harris). The following notes give details of those species represented by single records together with others which may be of interest to students of the group.

*Alliopsis billbergi* (Zetterstedt)

16.v.1984 Hothfield Common, O.S. grid ref. TQ967453. One male swept from scrub on sandy heathland.

*Anthomyia imbrida* Rondani

5.vii.1983 Murston TQ925653. One male swept from dry fly-ash tip; 11.vi.1989 Dover Western Heights TR3140; 11.vi.1989 Shakespeare Cliff, Aycliffe TR3039 – males and females taken from both sites on dry chalk grassland.

*A. mimetica* (Malloch)

28.v.1992 Rusthall Common TQ5639. One male swept during collecting over a range of habitats, mainly grassland and mature, mixed deciduous, woodland.

*A. pluvialis* (Linnaeus)

22.v.1993 Aylesford TQ735592, one male along banks of water-filled gravel pit; 29.v.1993 Teynham Levels TQ9664, one male in coastal grazing marsh; 6.viii.1993 Bingley's Island, Canterbury TR142576; one male in damp willow scrub;

16.viii.1997 Crossness NR TQ4981 one female in coastal marsh. *Anthomyia pluvialis* is often given as a typical example of the family in popular entomological books yet, in my experience, it is decidedly local in Kent. Of the three grey and black *Anthomyia* species recorded from the county my records suggest that *Anthomyia procellaris* Rondani may be found in a wide range of habitats including woodland, *A. imbrida* is characteristic of dry areas whilst *A. pluvialis* prefers wetlands.

*Botanophila brunneilinea* (Zetterstedt)

29.v.1989 Lydden LNR TR276452; 11.vi.1989 Round Down, Aycliffe TR298396; 3.vii.1989 Coombe Down, Dover TR303426; 6.vii.1989 Long Wood, Dover TR2841; 9.viii.1991 Northfleet TQ630742; 29.vii.1992 Park Gate Down TR168459; 3.vii.1993 Eccles Pit TQ7261; 21.viii.1994 Vinters Park LNR TQ775559; 3.viii.1996 Birchet Wood TQ987369; 3.viii.1996 Faggs Wood TQ9834. The majority of these sites are chalk grassland although as *Botanophila brunneilinea* is associated with *Centaurea* species it is probably not an indicator of calcareous areas.

*B. cuspidata* (Collin)

22.vi.1984 Darland Banks, Gillingham TQ793655. One male swept from open calcareous downland.

*B. laterella* (Collin)

14.iv.1982 Oare TR003623 open grassland bordering disused gravel pits; 15.iv.1989 Bramling TR22455610 in disused chalk pit; 15.iv.1989 Malmain's Wood, Eythorne TR293486 mature chestnut coppice on the chalk; 29.iv.1989 and 30.iv.1989 Coombe Down, Dover TR303426 open chalk downland; 30.iv.1989 Gorsehill, Dover TR298426 open chalk downland; 20.v.1990 Cheriton Hill TR1938 open chalk downland; 23.v.1992 Kingsnorth TQ8173 in grassland which has colonised coal ash tips; 23.v.1993 Lower Halstow TQ8567 dry grassland and scrub on site of former brickfields; 20.iv.1994 Ellenden Wood TR103622 mixed deciduous woodland on clay. According to Dr Pont (*pers.comm.*) *Botanophila laterella* is Nationally Scarce. However, like many species of the family, its relatively early flight period coupled with the unpopularity of the group may mean that it is frequently overlooked.

*B. sanctimarci* (Czerny)

15.iv.1989 Malmain's Wood, Eythorne TR293486. One male swept along ride in mature chestnut coppice. Dr Pont has informed me that the species has frequently been taken on or near Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and this plant was growing in abundance at Malmain's Wood.

*B. seneciella* (Meade)

5.vi.1994 Dungeness TR0817, one male obtained by general sweeping of shingle vegetation; 25.vi.1995 Fordwich TR18136043, one male swept from grassland and scrub.

*B. sonchi* (Hardy)

21.vii.1983 Oare TR003623 open grassland bordering disused gravel pits; 20.vii.1985 Lydden LNR TR278453 open chalk downland; 15.vii.1989 Wenderton Hoath TR2359 scrub bordering disused gravel pits; 18.vii.1993 Chiddingstone Ponds TQ5147 lushly vegetated area near old clay pits.

*Chirosia crassiseta* Stein

1.v.1993 Hothfield Common TQ969459, one male obtained by general sweeping of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* on sandy heathland; 20.v.1995 Grimshill Wood, Blean TR1060, one male swept from bracken along woodland ride on clay.

*C. griseifrons* (Séguy)

15.v.1994 Park Gate Down TR168459. This site comprises open chalk downland although bracken is widespread. All species of *Chirosia* are seemingly associated with ferns.

*C. latipennis* (Zetterstedt)

21.vi.1983 Hothfield Common TQ971459, one male swept from bracken on sandy heathland; 30.v.1994 Hoath Wood TQ7054, one male in heavily shaded chestnut coppice.

*Delia albula* (Fallén)

5.vi.1994 and 12.viii.1997 Romney sands TR0823 – males swept from marram grass on coastal sand dunes. This species is probably characteristic of dunes.

*D. cardui* (Meigen)

25.vi.1995 Fordwich TR18136043. One male swept from grassland and scrub near extensive gravel workings.

*D. carduiformis* (Schnabl)

23.v.1993 Lower Halstow TQ8567. One male swept from dry grassland and scrub on site of former brickfields.

*Fucellia maritima* (Haliday, 1838)

27.vii.1983 Cliffsend, Ramsgate TR3564; 1.x.1983 Shellness TR050681; 5.viii.1989 Pegwell Bay, Sandwich TR3462.

*F. tergina* (Zetterstedt)

9.x.1982 Nagden Marshes TR026645; 27.vii.1983 Cliffsend, Ramsgate TR3564; 5.viii.1989 Pegwell Bay, Sandwich TR3462. All species of *Fucellia* are confined to the sea-shore. Like several other fly species found in this habitat they are difficult to capture and hence their true distribution may be much wider.

*Lasiomma anthomyinum* (Rondani)

1.v.1997 Covert Wood TR182494. A single male swept along a densely shaded woodland ride. The usual species of the genus encountered in Kent are *L. seminitidum* (Zetterstedt) and *L. strigilatum* (Zetterstedt).

*Leucophora sericea* Robineau-Desvoidy

5.vii.1987 Kingsnorth TQ812736. Several specimens were taken near aculeate burrows in very dry fly-ash from the nearby coal-fired power station.

*Pegomya fulgens* (Meigen)

21.vi.1983 Hothfield Common TQ96754562. One male beside *Sphagnum* bog.

*P. meridiana* (Villeneuve)

8.vi.1985 Canterbury Field Study Centre TR158593. One male obtained during general collecting at a site which includes alder carr and basic grassland.

*P. notabilis* (Zetterstedt)

26.vi.1983 Mincing Wood TR1160. One male swept along woodland ride on clay.

*P. rubivora* (Cocquillet)

26.v.1986 Thornden Wood TR147635. One male swept along woodland ride on clay.

*P. steini* Hendel

25.v.1989 Down Wood TR0852. One male taken by general sweeping in and around a mature beech wood on the chalk.

*P. versicolor* (Meigen)

8.v.1982 Murston TQ922646. One male in open scrub which has subsequently been developed as the home ground of Sittingbourne football club.

*P. vittigera* (Zetterstedt)

20.vi.1993 Angley Wood TQ7636. Three males swept in mature woodland interspersed with *Sphagnum* bogs.

*Zaphne ambigua* (Fallén)

24.vi.1989 Lenham Heath TQ9149. One male swept during general recording in a disused sandpit. Parts of the area are very wet throughout the winter months whilst others have been planted with alders *Alnus* spp., presumably to reduce the water table.

*Z. inuncta* (Zetterstedt)

14.vii.1996 Angley Wood TQ7636. One male swept in *Sphagnum* dominated clearing in mixed deciduous wood.

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**Colonisation of a new area by *Oedemera nobilis* (Scop.) (Col.: Oedemeridae)**

Much to my surprise I encountered this striking and handsome beetle for the first time ever in this district or anywhere near, on 19 July last on Woolwich Common very near here – a locality I had often visited in the last twenty years or more. Some half-dozen in all, and only males, were noted on flowers of hogweed, wild carrot, ragwort and yarrow, some sharing a flower-head with *O. lurida* (Marsh.). The latter has long been much the more general of the two species, despite the reverse being stated in all the earlier works on our beetles. It seems that *O. nobilis* is already well distributed over the Common, though not seen at all last year; it is not easily overlooked. Apparently the process of colonisation can be extremely rapid. In Kent I had previously met with the species only in one or two of the old chalk workings east of Dartford, very locally and sparingly, and once at Otford; never in Surrey. It becomes far more frequent towards the south-west, as in parts of Devon.

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